Celebrating the Life of

John Griffin, Jr.

November 22, 1944 - August 23, 2019

Celebration Service

Friday, August 30, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Cornerstone Community Church of God in Christ

626 Drake Avenue, Marin City, CA 94965

Bishop Johnathan D. Logan, Sr., Officiating

Celebrating the Life of
John Griffin, Jr

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John Griffin Jr. was born on November 22, 1944 in Shreveport, Louisiana to Mildred Frances Brown and John Griffin, Sr. When John was a year old, his parents moved to Marin City, California during World War II to work in the Marinship Shipyard in Sausalito, California.

John Jr. attended Richardson Bay Elementary School in Sausalito and graduated from Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley, CA in June 1964. After graduation, John enlisted in the Navy and began what could only be termed a stellar professional career. Earning the rank of Quartermaster, John would go on to earn three Naval commendations: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal before he was honorably discharged in 1970. Immediately after discharge from the Navy, John enlisted in the Navy Reserves, while working seasonally as a Fire Warden – a job that he would parlay into a 31-year career as a fireman with the Marin County Fire Department – serving 24 of those 31 years as a Fire Captain before his retirement on 3/30/2002.

Wanting to remain active during his retirement, John began a third career as a bus driver – working for both the Marin Airporter and the Sausalito Marin City School District for an additional 12 years. In 2014, John decided to "retire" for good so that he could devote more time to his grandchildren, travel, rest, and enjoy the good life.

If John's professional career was impressive, his love and care for his family was equally so. Marrying the love of his life, Fay Derra Harris on September 8, 1974, Fay and John became the proud parents of three amazing daughters: Antoinette Monique, Natasha Olivia, and Deidre Vanessa. On June 4, 2005, John and Fay recomitted themselves with another wedding ceremony.

John Jr. loved his family above all else. He gave to each of them unselfishly without ever expecting anything in return. His was a practical love. John felt it was his duty as a husband, father, and grandfather to keep his family safe, secure, and prepared. He made sure he taught each of his children to drive at an early age. He insisted that "drinking plenty water" was a daily mantra that lived by. "Who is helping you grow up?" he could be heard saying – and to make sure that they could answer that question, he created a blue sheet of "41 Helpful Hints to Becoming An Adult" – a step by step guide to growing up that he shared with each of them. His grandchildren, Rokiah, RJ, Vanessa and Isha, were his delight and he would often drive hundreds or even thousands of miles to show his support and commitment.

John loved to travel and was particularly fond of going to family reunions in Louisiana and Texas and making surprise visits to distant relatives and friends. He was always interested in visiting new places, meeting new family members and making new friends. Every year he enjoyed participating in driving the support vehicle for the Annual Seattle to Portland Cycling event with his brothers Roger, Jonathan, Ernest and sister-in-law Loretta.

Taking his wife and daughters on exciting vacation destinations was one of his favorite things to do. Lake Tahoe, Disneyland, Louisiana, Texas, Niagara Falls, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, Memphis, TN and Illinois were among their most memorable trips. He also liked accompanying his wife Fay to state and national church conferences and conventions. For him, the trip of a lifetime came when he visited the Gambia West Africa with his family and granddaughter Vanessa to celebrate his 69th birthday and to become better acquainted with his new son-in-law, Kunta, and his family and friends.

John was an active member of Cornerstone Community Church of God in Christ under the ministry of Bishop Logan. In true John fashion, he helped with maintenance, groundskeeping and doing various needed jobs around the church. He was dependable and always available to secure the building and troubleshoot when necessary.

On August 23rd, after a year-long illness, John was called home to be with the Lord.

John Jr. was preceded in death by his mother, Mildred, father, John Sr., brother James, sisters Shirley Stull, Denise (Molly) Herbert, and Amber Denise Sullivan.

John Jr. leaves a legacy to honor his memory, his wife Fay Derra; daughters Antoinette Monique Griffin, Mill Valley, CA, Natasha Olivia Griffin Kambi (Kunta), Marin City, CA, and Deidre Vanessa Griffin, Vallejo, CA; Four brothers, Roger Griffin, San Francisco, CA, Jonathan (Kristine), Seattle, WA, Aaron Muhammad (Mahana), La Quinta, CA, Ernest Griffin (Loretta), Maple Valley, WA; five sisters, Frances Jean Williams (Clide), Shreveport, LA, Judy Griffin Elie, Shreveport, LA, Laura Elaine Baugh (Theodore), Fair View Heights, IL, Linda Marie Garbot (Glenn), Las Vegas, NV and Rachael Pearl Griffin, Marin, CA; four grandchildren, Rokiah Fay Cutkelvin, Rodwell James (RJ) Cutkelvin Jr, Vanessa Renee Kennedy, and Isha Bintou Kambi. John also leaves one Aunt, Lottie Griffin, Long Beach, CA, his Cornerstone Community Church of God in Christ Church family, a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and Marin Firefighters and Marin Airporter friends.◆

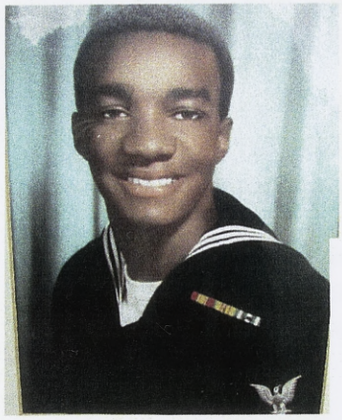
Order of Service

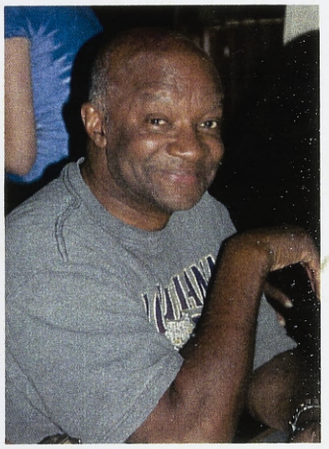
Music Prelude

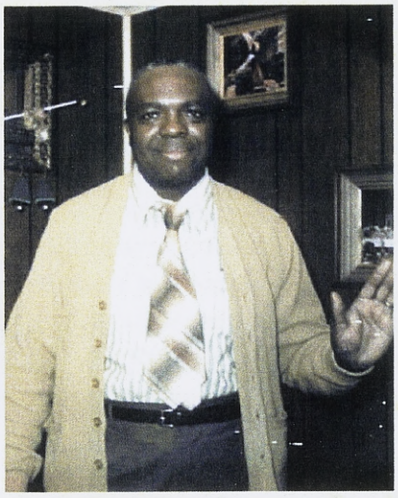
Processional.....Clergy & Family
Invocation.....Superintendent Jeremiah Richardson
Scripture:
Old Testament: Psalm 23.....Elder Ronald Darden
New Testament: St. John 14:1-6.....Rev. Alexander Elie
Military Salute
Ministry in Song.....D'George Hines
Poem.....Clarence (Ronnie) Striplin
Tributes.....Cornerstone Community Church
Marin County Fire Department
Marin Airporter
Ministry in Song.....Carol Thomas
Warm Expressions.....Friends: Tami Bell, Joseph Robinson
Family: Alena & Julian Maunder
Poem.....Rachael Griffin
Reflections: (2 min please) .....Friends &Family
Acknowledgement of Cards.....Terrie Harris-Green
Ministry in Song.....Pamela Bluford Smith
John's Life Story.....Yvonne Harris
Ministry in Song.....Carolyn L. J. Logan
Eulogy.....Bishop Johnathan D. Logan, Sr.
Glimpse to Glory.....Adobe Creek Funeral Home
Fire Department Salute.....Marin County Fire Department

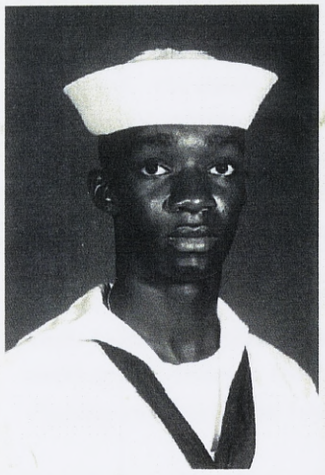
Recessional

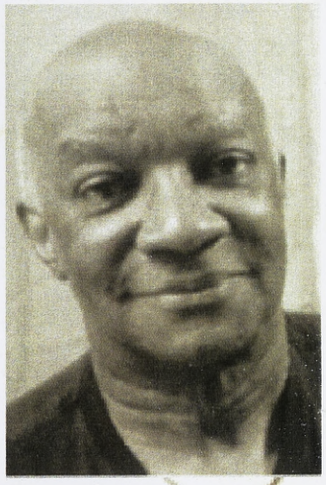
John Griffin, Jr. and Family

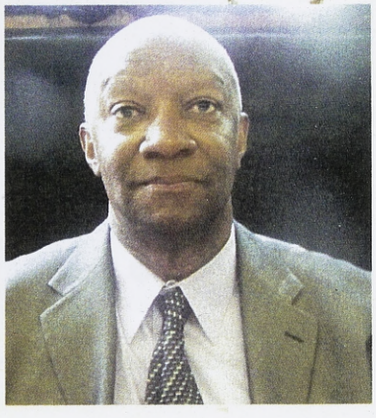












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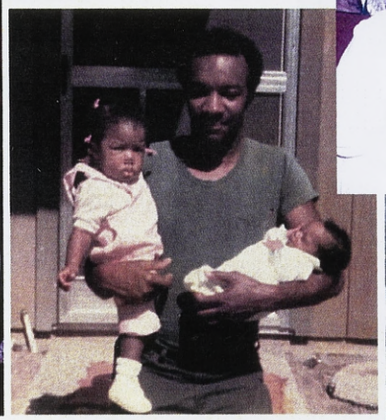

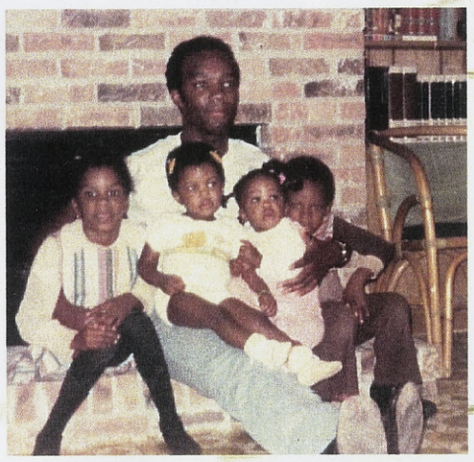

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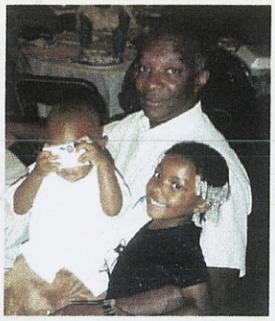

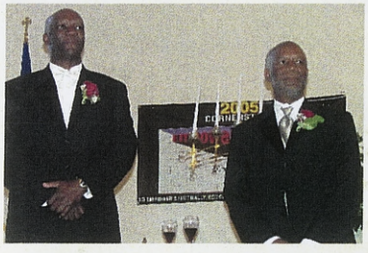

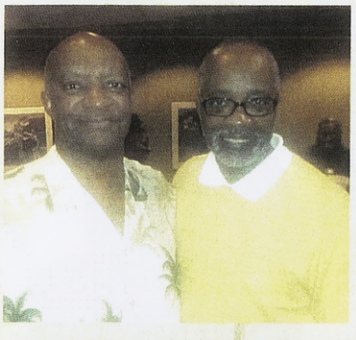

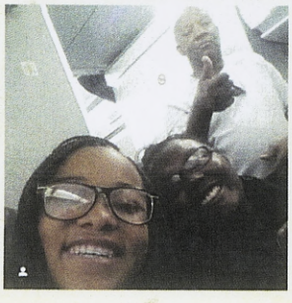

John, Family & Friends

Active Pallbearers

Paul Austin, Jr.
John Harris, Jr,
Robert Harris
Henry Mims
Jermaine Harris
Lerone Harris, Sr.
James Ray Henderson
Julian Maunder

Honorary Pallbearers

Tami Bell
Ernest Griffin
Roger Griffin
Aaron Muhammed
Rodwell James (RJ) Cutcelvin, Jr.
Jonathan Griffin
Kunta Kambi
Joseph Robinson

Acknowledgements

The family of John Griffin, Jr. would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation and thanks for the enormous outpouring of love and support from all that have been touched by his life.

A special thank you to
Satellite (Dialysis) Healthcare, Greenbrae, CA

Repast

Following the service, the family invite you to fellowship with them.
The repast will be at the Manzanita Recreation Center,
630 Drake Avenue, Marin City, CA 94965

Interment

Sacramento Valley National
Veterans Cemetery
September 4, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Arrangements entrusted to Adobe Creek Funeral Home and
Sacramento Valley National Veterans Cemetery

Program By: Sharon Turner and Terrie Harris-Green